

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15  
NSC-05 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /056 W  
-----080619Z 104902 /20

R 071729Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1542

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVIAR: CONCORDE: CHILD ROLLAND TO THE DARK

TOWER CAME

1. ACCORDING TO AFP, HECTOR ROLLAND, RPR DEPUTY FROM THE ALLIER REGION, HAS SENT A LETTER TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY PARTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INVITING THEM TO PARADE WITH HIM DOWN FIFTH AVENUE IN NEW YORK IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE. ROLLAND URGED THAT AS MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AS POSSIBLE JOIN HIM IN MAKING THE TRIP. ROLLAND WOULD PROPOSE TO CHARTER AN AIRCRAFT FOR THE TRIP AND STATED THAT AN AMERICAN FRIEND WAS PREPARED TO ORGANIZE THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE NEW YORK END. ROLLAND WROTE THAT HE WAS TAKING HIS INITIATIVE BECAUSE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS IN THE CONCORDE AFFAIR, THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE HEADED BY HIS RPR COLLEAGUE LUCIEN NEUWIRTH WAS "INEFFECTIVE," AND FRENCH POLITICAL PARTIES HAD THUS FAR HAD NO EFFECT IN INFLUENCING CONCORDE DEVELOPMENTS.

2. AFP SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT ROLLAND HAS ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER BARRE TO DISCUSS THE CONCORDE PROBLEM WITH HIM.

3. COMMENT: ROLLAND, WHO SPENT A WEEK IN THE US LAST MONTH, MAY HAVE DERIVED HIS INSPIRATION FROM NEW YORK'S ST. PATRICK DAY PARADE. WE TRUST THAT SOMEONE WILL COME FORWARD ON THE FRENCH SCENE TO DISCOURAGE ROLLAND FROM PURSUING HIS FOOLISHNESS IN PROPOSING THAT THE SONS OF ST. GENEVIEVE EMULATE THE SONS OF ST. PATRICK IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK. IN THIS COUNTRY THAT IS ITSELF SO QUICK TO TAKE OFFENSE AT REAL OR IMAGINED INTERFERENCE BY FOREIGN POWERS IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ONE WONDERS WHAT THE REACTION WOULD BE IF A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS PROPOSED TO COME TO PARIS TO PARADE DOWN THE CHAMPS-ELYSEE IN SUPPORT OF THE SALE OF BOEING 737'S TO AIR FRANCE. ROLLAND MAY ALSO HAVE NEEDLESSLY NETTLED HIS COLLEAGUE NEUWIRTH. HOWEVER, RECALLING AS WE DO THAT NEUWIRTH AT ONE TIME WAS TALKING OF HIMSELF LEADING A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO NEW YORK TO LOBBY THERE IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE, ONE CANNOT RULE OUT ENTIRELY THE POSSIBILITY THAT A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MIGHT FINALLY MAKE THE TRIP TO THE US, THOUGH PROBABLY LEAVING THEIR MARCHING SHOES AND BANNERS AT HOME. WE ARE NO MORE CONVINCED NOW THAN WE WERE THEN THAT DIRECT LOHNYI"G NY REN"C PARLIAMENTARIANS IN NEW YORK AND POSSIBLY ALSO WASHINGTON WOULD BE ESPECIALLY PRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOING STRONGLY ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE IS SOUND POLITICS AND GETS GOOD PUBLICITY IN FRANCE THESE DAYS, AS SO MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE DISCOVERED, AND REACTION TO THE TRIP HERE AT HOME MIGHT BE MORE SIGNIFICANT TO THE PARTICIPANTS THAN WHAT THEY COULD HOPE USEFULLY TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE US. SO WE CANNOT WRITE OFF ROLLAND'S INITIATIVE ENTIRELY. NOR, PERHAPS, CAN PRIME MINISTER BARRE IF HE IS REALLY TRYING TO MEND FENCES WITH THE RPR.H- HOWEVER, ROLLAND HIMSELF HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING THE PARTY BUFFOON, WHICH MAKES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION GOING TO THE US WOULD RALLY BEHIND ROLLAND'S LEADERSHIP ON BEHALF OF CONCORDE. GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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